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 Editor and Publisher

# The Hongkong Telegraph.

**TODAY'S WEATHER:** Moderate Northeast winds, fresh at times. Fine.  
 Noon Observations: Barometer's pressure, 1022.9 mbs., 30.21 in. Temperature, 57.9 deg. F. Dew P. 49 deg. F. Relative humidity, 61. Wind direction, ESE. Wind force, 6 knots.  
 High water: 8 ft. 1 in. at 9.34 p.m. Low water: 1 ft. 2 in. at 4.31 a.m. (Thursday).

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VOL. III NO. 272

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1948.

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## Churchill Lashes Govt. On Nationalisation Bill

London, Nov. 16.—Mr Winston Churchill, in a bitter attack on the Government's iron and steel nationalisation bill, tonight accused the Government of being "handcuffed and heralded" by Communism and of preparing "at every stage and at every step for its further advance."

Speaking in the second day of the three-day debate on the bill, Mr Churchill said the Government were seeking to create a monopoly on the pattern of National State trading, "indistinguishable from that of the Russian Communist Government."

Pointing to the Government benches, he declared "This is not an economic measure conceived with a view to the right or wrong in the national interest but a party dodge to hold that gang where they sit, till they have run the full length of their term."

"The Socialist Ministers must have something new to feed the flames of party strife and prove they still hate and are trying to smash the other half of their fellow countrymen."

"The one thing they fear and shrink from is a general election which is coming upon them and which will ensure their dismal and evil reign."

Mr Churchill asserted that the British steel industry, in the nationalised form planned by the Government, would "arouse against itself the equally concentrated and probably more powerful forms of collective bargaining" in the United States and other foreign countries.

"I do not know what measures foreign countries will adopt when confronted with the Socialist State monopoly of British steel. I cannot believe they will be of a helpful or grateful nature."

—Reuter.

## TRIBUTE TO ROYAL BABY

London, Nov. 16.—Britain's poet laureate, John Masefield paid tribute on Tuesday to Princess Elizabeth's son with a simple quatrain titled "A Hope for the Newly Born."

It reads:  
 "Way destiny allotting what befalls,  
 "Grant to the new-born this saving grace:  
 "A guard more sure than ships and fortress walls  
 "The loyal love and service of a race."

It was published in the Times.—Associated Press.

## PARLIAMENT PLEASED

London, Nov. 16.—Both Houses of Parliament today passed a motion congratulating the Royal Family on the birth of a son to Princess Elizabeth.

In the House of Commons, the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, said that today the Royal Family held the affection of the peoples of the Commonwealth and Empire in a measure which had not been surpassed by even the best loved of their predecessors.

Mr Winston Churchill, leader of the Opposition, said it was refreshing that their party quarrels should be broken into by so agreeable an interlude.—Reuter.

## Brutal Hold-Up

Woodville, Ohio, Nov. 16.—A brutal hold-up couple today tortured and bent a prominent businessman and his wife, using ordinary pliers to pull out teeth from the man's mouth. At a time, because they thought he had more money hidden in his house.

The couple, a masked man and woman, forced Mrs Kathleen Cooper, 36, to open a small safe. When the loot was not up to their expectations, they pulled out the gold-capped teeth of Robert Cooper, 40, in an effort to make him tell where more money was kept.—United Press.

## Strikebound U.S. Ports

New York, Nov. 16.—The strike-bound U.S. ports presented this picture on Tuesday:  
 New York—42 ships tied up—hundreds of prospective passengers shorebound—foreign mail piling up.  
 Boston—eight vessels dockbound.  
 Major James Curley asked President Truman to expedite a settlement of the strike.  
 Baltimore—49 ships strikebound.  
 Philadelphia—32 ships strikebound.  
 San Francisco—negotiations are continuing in the strike of 28,000 West Coast dockers and seagoing men which began on Sept. 2.—Associated Press.

## Broker-Sentenced

Shanghai, November 17.—The Special Criminal Tribunal today sentenced the prominent Shanghai exchange broker, John W. Toor, to four months imprisonment in connection with an alleged blackmarket U.S. dollar deal. Mrs Wai was acquitted and released.—United Press.

## EDITORIAL

### Wrong Voting System

THE merits and shortcomings of the constitution under which the Municipal Council will eventually be brought into being have still to be publicly debated. Hitherto Sir Mark Young's blueprint, based on invited representative opinion, and subsequently shrouded and slightly amended by the Colonial Office, has been accepted on face value it might almost be said ignored by the general public. The cursory examination which taxpayers gave the blueprint when it was originally announced was probably prompted by the knowledge that a long time must elapse before it could be translated into practice. But recent references to the proposed Council attracted awakened interest in the document. The difficulty of applying a franchise in a place like Hongkong, with its overpopulation, its changing population, and its relative illiteracy was appreciated from the first and confronted those charged with the task of drawing up an electoral formula with a variety of problems. To some extent the various objections which different franchise schemes created are met by the qualifications and procedure which the Secretary of State approved. But one grave defect is manifest, and it is one which public opinion should make itself sufficiently heard to persuade the Secretary of State for the Colonies to effect an amendment. Allied with a ward system is proposed a method of communal voting which in application has the effect of disenfranchising non-Chinese only to be allowed to vote for non-Chinese candidates and Chinese permitted only to support Chinese candidates.

possible for quite a few Councilors to be created without a genuinely popular vote. The assumption that Chinese electors wish only to vote for a Chinese candidate is unreasonable and a negation of the free vote principle. It would be possible in any one ward for Chinese voters to be asked to support somebody who would not be their personal choice, and find themselves placed in a position where they would have to do one of two things—vote for a candidate they did not wish to have represent them or refuse to go to the polls. Nor is it proper to assume that non-Chinese would desire to vote only for non-Chinese candidates. The vote, as far as possible, must be made free and the necessity of voting communally removed. This cuts across the ward system, the desirability of which, however, is open to grave doubts. Balance of Chinese and non-Chinese interests there must be, but it can be achieved without forcing the electorate into communal voting. One suggested method already made is to have all the candidates eligible for the votes of everybody on the electoral register, but with the proviso that no matter whether all the Chinese candidates receive the greatest number of votes, only a stated number can be elected, with the rest of the vacancies being filled by non-Chinese candidates in the order of their popular votes. This would guarantee the necessary representational balance and also preserve the free and unrestricted individual vote. An alternative method certainly be found to this particular section of the proposed constitution, as it exists today. Under no circumstances should the electorate allow themselves to be forced into communal voting.

# NANKING CLAIMS REDS NOW IN GENERAL RETREAT

## Changes In Hsuechow Battlefront

### ALL COMMUNIST ATTACKS REPORTED REPULSED

Nanking, Nov. 16.—Contrary to earlier independent reports all Communist armies around Hsuechow, the Government bastion in North Kiangsu, were officially reported tonight to be moving northward in what was described as a general withdrawal.

A communique issued by the Ministry of National Defence, confirming earlier pro-Government reports, said Communist forces under General Chen Yi, on the eastern flank of Hsuechow, continued their retreat northward and eastward in the direction of Taierschueng, Tancheng and Hsinan, across the Shantung-Kiangsu border.

It claimed heavy casualties, totalling 93,000 men, had been inflicted upon the Reds, while 8,000 Communists in Janchuan and Payichi areas had surrendered with their arms to the Government forces.

Late despatches tonight also claimed Communist armies withdrawing from south and west of Hsuechow stating that as the Reds retreated "in complete disorder," they were "pursued by column after column of Government troops and strafed by Chinese Air Force planes overhead."

A CAF report quoted by the Central Daily News said that with General Ching-chuan's forces despatched to relieve General Huang Pal-tao's men caught in the Communist pincers at Janchuan in complete control of Wenshan, north of the railway above Janchuan, the Communist forces on the eastern flank of Hsuechow were now being driven away from the stone-wall defence.

The Defence Ministry communique attributed the Government successes mainly to the part played by the Chinese Air Force, which was said to have dealt telling blows to the Communists since the fighting began on November 9.

The communique also reported the Chinese Air Force destroyed the headquarters of the Communist General Liu Po-cheng, located at Sanpao, south of Hsuechow.

It said documents captured by the Government forces included a personal order issued by the Red Commander-in-Chief, General Chu Teh, directing Liu Po-cheng to take personal command of the operations on both the eastern and western flanks.

As a result of the destruction of Liu's headquarters, Government reports claimed the Communist Command for the Hsuechow area had disintegrated, resulting in a disorderly retreat.—Reuter-AAP.

### EMBASSY STATEMENT

Washington, November 16.—The Chinese Embassy today issued a statement that reports from China indicated that the Nationalist forces were repulsing the Communists around Hsuechow.

The reports said the Communist forces east and south of Hsuechow were "showing more signs of a rout."

An Embassy spokesman announced that "cable reports of the fighting around Hsuechow between the Chinese government armies and Communist forces up to 10 a.m. today (Nanking standard time) indicated that repeated attacks of the Communist forces have been repulsed and turned against them by the government armed forces under the command of two well-known fighting generals, Gen. Huang Pal-tao and Gen. Chiu Ching-chuan, with substantial losses to the attackers."

"From early this morning the Communists east and south of Hsuechow are showing more and more signs of a rout and the tide of the battle is turning decidedly in favour of the government forces. The people in Nanking are recovering their confidence,"—United Press.

### NEW HOPES RAISED

Washington, Nov. 16.—Chinese Embassy reports of Nationalist Government success around Hsuechow today raised hopes but not convictions that some stopgap aid may reach China in time.

Responsible sources here regard the outcome of the Hsuechow battle as "decisive" in the fate of North and Central China. The sources believe that if Hsuechow falls, the Communists, soon would be at the rail terminus of Pukow across the Yangtze from Nanking.

They said that the Nationalist troops win the battle and permanently consolidate their gains, 5,000 tons of military equipment which recently left a Pacific Coast port might arrive in time to materially help the situation.

There was talk of the possibility of more shipments but responsible sources feared that they would have arrived too late. The 5,000-ton shipment was under the \$125,000,000 military aid grant authorized by the last Congress and any further shipments in the near future would be within that grant. A balance of more than \$14,000,000 remains to be spent but the difficulty seems to be procurement.

Any other official aid must await the next Congress.

### WHOLESALE DEFECTIONS

Responsible officials, meanwhile, appeared increasingly cool toward any further United States commitments until some stabilising Chinese situation appears. They cited "rumours" in the reports from China battle fronts indicating wholesale defections of Nationalist troops with the loss of "enormous" quantities of equipment—much of it American equipment.

They said that various Chinese cities, beginning with Shantung's capital, Tsinan, fell to the Communists after "very little" resistance by the Nationalist defenders.

Those officials said that if these reports were true the Chinese should evidence stronger will to fight if they expect further substantial aid from the United States.

Responsible sources here, both Chinese and American, believe that the Mukden arsenal, which was stripped when the Russians left Manchuria, was reassembled "somewhere in the north" and is turning out Japanese type of arms for the Chinese Communist troops. Both said, however, that there was no direct evidence of direct Soviet military aid to the Chinese Communists.

### LACK WILL TO FIGHT

They said reports from China fronts agreed that the Russian type equipment which had been captured from the Communists by the Nationalists was no more than might be expected to be found in Manchuria, once occupied by Soviet troops.

They said the bulk of equipment captured from the Japanese was "made available" to the Chinese Communists when the Kwantung Army was disbanded after V-J Day.

Pointing to reports of lack of will to fight by the Nationalist forces, they said that past history showed that an average ratio of three attackers to one defender is necessary to capture the Chinese walled city, while in some recent instances the ratio was one and one-third to one.

Responsible American officials said the present events in China vindicated General Marshall's stand that the Chinese problem was essentially political and economic which had to be solved before a long term United States policy could be reached.—United Press.

## Truman's Stand On Four-Power Talks

### Russia Must First Lift Blockade

London, Nov. 16.—President Truman stated flatly today that the United States would not resume four-power talks on the German crisis until the Soviets lifted their blockade of Berlin.

The President told a press conference at Key West, Florida, that he had no plans for a meeting with Premier Stalin. He would not leave Washington for such a conference but that his invitation to Mr Stalin to visit Washington still stood.

He said he had no plans to send an emissary to Moscow to meet the Soviet Premier.

He told the press conference that he would review the entire international situation with Mr George Marshall, the Secretary of State, and the roving Economic Co-operation Administration Ambassador, Mr Averell Harriman, at the White House on November 22.

Mr Truman left no doubt that he wanted Mr Marshall to continue in his post as Secretary of State by declaring that both were in "perfect agreement" on everything and always had been. The President said Mr Marshall never wanted to do anything but retire from the time he left the Army. He was serving as a patriotic duty and was one of America's greatest patriots.

### CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

The President said that Mr Marshall had prepared a statement for release later on the suggestion by Mr Trygve Loe, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and Dr Herbert E. Evans, the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Today's press conference was Mr Truman's first since his election. He said he would press the new Congress for the enactment of the Democratic platform, including his controversial Civil Rights proposals.

He asserted that he would not call a special session of the present Congress, which he described as a "do nothing" Congress, to deal with China.

The proposal for a special session had been made by Senator Styles Bridges, Republican, New Hampshire.

Mr Truman said he was in communication now with the Chinese President but declined to discuss the matter further.—Reuter.

### WORKING CONDITIONS IN H.K.

Kandy, Nov. 16.—The Hongkong delegates to the International Labour Organisation's conference here today outlined the working conditions in the Colony.

Delegates from Ceylon, India, Burma, Vietnam, France, the Netherlands East Indies and the United Kingdom also gave an outline of the working conditions in their respective countries.

Special reference was made to the recruitment of labour inspectors and the employment of women in labour inspection service and the role of the inspectorate in the enforcement of measures intended to ameliorate working and living conditions.

INSPECTOR'S QUALITIES  
 They stated that though high academic qualifications were necessary more emphasis should be laid on practical rather than theoretical knowledge.

An inspector should have a personality to command respect and inspire confidence in the employer and the employees, they added.

Women inspectors, it was stated, would be most useful where female and child labour was employed. It was suggested that Labour inspectors should work primarily for the enforcement of labour enactments and for inspection and that they should not be encumbered with arbitration and conciliation.

The delegates felt that there was a tendency to load labour inspectors with "statistical" work which should belong to a separate department.—Reuter.

## AIRLINER "BUZZED"



A plane described as a Russian P-63 (left) is seen buzzing a Civil Air Transport plane 75 miles from Dairen. The wing-tip is that of the transport. The plane was en route from Tsingtao to Mukden, Manchuria, which is now in Chinese Communist hands.  
 —AP Picture.

## STOP PRESS

### Cricket Club 194 For 9

The Hongkong Cricket Club had scored 194 runs for nine wickets against the Malaya Combined Services XI by lunch time today.

HKCC		
L. F. Stokes, b. Farham	27	4
A. D. Kilbee, b. Farham	4	
N. R. Oliver, b. Steele	52	0
G. T. Rowe, c. Steele, b. Farham	0	
H. Owen-Hughes, c. & b. Farham	40	
D. H. Leach, c. Copley, b. Farham	2	
R. W. Franklin, c. Leggett, b. Farham	0	
O. J. Kerr, c. Greenwood, b. Steele	6	
T. P. Mahon, c. Leggett, b. Farham	9	
A. E. Perry, not out	11	
H. H. Hughes, not out	16	
Extras	21	
Total. (for 9 wks.)	194	

Bowling			
	O	M	R
Farham	14	2	35
Greenwood	3	0	28
Leggett	7	0	29
Syrett	6	1	33
Steele	10	1	50

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